Vulnerability to tobacco use

3103. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per National Family Health Survey conducted in the year 2006-07, 11 per cent adult female and 57 per cent adult male are addict of smoking;

(b) whether it is a fact that youths are most vulnerable to tobacco use and 80 per cent of adult smokers initiate their tobacco use before 18 years of age;

(c) whether lower taxes resulting in low price, facilitate easy accessibility to tobacco products; and

(d) what steps are being taken to reduce the use of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The National Family Heath Survey (NFHS) – III was carried out in 2005-06, according to which 57% of male and 11% of women in the age group of 15-49 in India consume tobacco (smoking and chewing/smokeless) in some form or other.

(b) Yes, youth are most vulnerable to tobacco. Data relating to percentage of adult smokers, who had initiated use of tobacco before 18 years of age, is not available.

(c) Yes, lower taxes resulting in low price facilitate access to tobacco products. The WHO – Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), ratified by India in 2004, identifies tax and price measures as an effective demand reduction strategy.

(d) In order to protect the youth and masses from the adverse harmful effect of tobacco the Government of India has enacted comprehensive Act "the cigarette and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003". The specific provisions of the said Act include:—

(i) Ban on smoking in public places. (**Section**-4)

(ii) Ban on direct/indirect advertisement of tobacco products. (**Section**-5)

(iii) Ban on sale of tobacco products to children below 18 year and ban on sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of the educational institution. (**Section**-6)

(iv) Specified health warnings on tobacco products. (**Section**-7)

Further the Government of India has also launched a new National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) in the Eleventh Five Year Plan to implement the Anti Tobacco Laws and to bring about greater awareness about the ill-effects of tobacco. The Objective of NTCP is to build up an appropriate IEC and awareness campaign including School Health Programme, product testing laboratories for effective monitoring and implementation of anti tobacco initiatives at State/District level.